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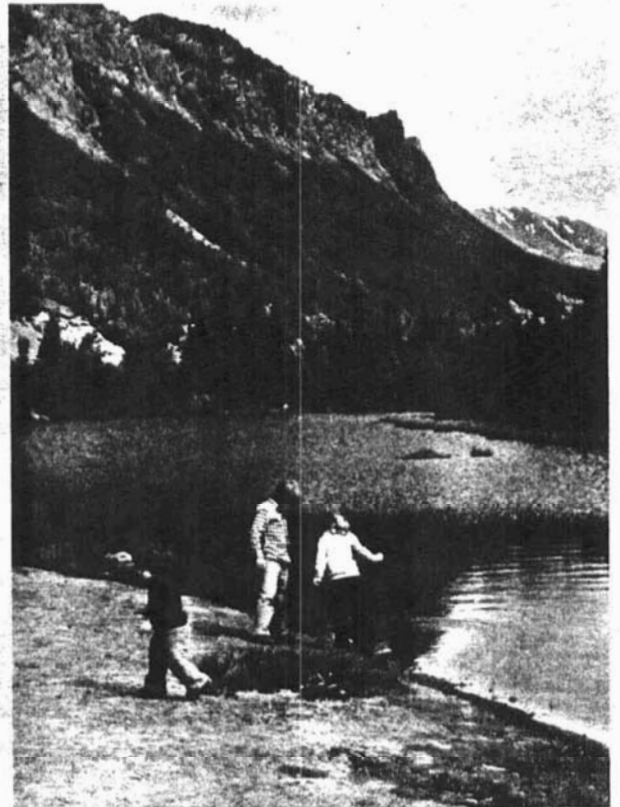


STATE OF ALASKA

Bill Sheffield, Governor
Esther C. Wunnicke, Commissioner,
Dept. of Natural Resources
Ross G. Schaff, State Geologist

INFORMATION ON WATER AND WATER RIGHTS IN ALASKA PUBS. REFERENCE

Revised August 15, 1984



INFORMATION CIRCULAR
25

**DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL &
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS**

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL &
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

According to Alaska Statute 41, the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys is charged with conducting 'geological and geophysical surveys to determine the potential of Alaska lands for production of metals, minerals, fuels, and geothermal resources; the locations and supplies of ground waters and construction materials; the potential geologic and seismic hazards to buildings, roads, bridges, and other installations and structures; and shall conduct other surveys and investigations as will advance knowledge of the geology of Alaska.'

In addition, the Division shall collect, evaluate, and publish data on the underground, surface, and coastal waters of the state. It shall also acquire, process, and file data from well-drilling logs.

DGGS performs numerous functions, all under the direction of the State Geologist—resource investigations (including mineral, petroleum, geothermal, and water), geologic-hazard and geochemical investigations, and information services.

Administrative functions are performed under the direction of the State Geologist, who maintains his office in Anchorage. The DGGS Water Resources section is located on Fish Hatchery Road in Eagle River (P.O. Box 772116, zip 99577; ph. 688-3555). Other DGGS offices are at:

.794 University Ave. Basement Fairbanks, 99701 (907) 474-7062	.3601 C St (8th fl.) Pouch 7-028 Anchorage, 99510 (907) 276-2653
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.400 Willoughby
(4th floor)
Juneau, 99801
(907) 465-3400

Cover photo: *Children's fascination with water—in this instance Long Lake at Mile 86 of the Glenn Highway—is symbolic of Alaska's need for water-resource information. (Photo by L.L. Dearborn.)*

INFORMATION ON WATER AND WATER RIGHTS IN ALASKA

This circular is intended to provide interested parties with the names and addresses of the state and federal agencies involved in water-data collection and water management in Alaska. These agencies have information on water rights, surface-water and ground-water availability, and water quality.

WATER RIGHTS

All surface and subsurface waters of Alaska are reserved to the people for common use and are subject to appropriation pursuant to the Alaska Water Use Act. A water right is a property right for the use of those public waters. A water right allows diversion, impoundment, or withdrawal of a specified amount of water from a particular water source for a specified use. This right, when granted, becomes appurtenant (attached) to the land where the water is used and continues in effect for as long as the water is used. If the land is sold, the water right goes with the land to the new owner unless it is specifically severed from the land with the approval of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

In addition to the above-mentioned consumptive uses, a person may apply to reserve sufficient water to maintain a critical level or 'in-stream flow' of water at a specified point on a stream or body of water or in a specified stream reach, throughout a year or for certain periods of time, for:

- a) Protection of fish and wildlife habitat
- b) Recreation
- c) Navigation
- d) Water quality.

To obtain water rights in Alaska---that is, a water permit or a certificate of appropriation---one must submit an application to the State Division of Land and Water Management, below. (A *water permit* allows a person to proceed with the construction necessary to develop a water source. A *certificate of appropriation* is the legal document that conveys water rights once water is being beneficially used.)

In Alaska, there are no inherent rights to ground water by virtue of ownership of adjoining or surrounding land. Use of water without a permit or certificate does not vest the user with any right to water, no matter how long the water use continues.

Alaska Statute 46.15.180 states, in part, that a person who either constructs works for an appropriation or uses a significant amount of water without a permit or certificate of appropriation is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Further information about water rights and in-stream-flow reservations are contained in the DNR 'Water-use handbook,' a booklet published by the Division of Land and Water Management. The DLWM also has application forms for water permits and certificates of appropriation in their district offices, listed below:

.ALASKA DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

South-central district 3601 C St. (10th fl.) Pouch 7-005 Anchorage, AK 99501 (ph 276-2653)	Southeastern district 400 Willoughby Juneau, AK 99801 (ph 465-3400)
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North-central district
4420 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(ph 479-2243)

SURFACE-WATER INFORMATION

Surface water is that which occurs on the land surface and is visible as lakes, rivers, ponds, swamps, and creeks. Agencies with information on surface water (which might pertain to lake levels, stream and spring discharges, flood hazards, irrigation, soil and bank erosion, and snow surveys) are:

.ALASKA DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT (above).

.ALASKA DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS (p. i).

.ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

Materials Section Pouch 6900 Anchorage, AK 99502 (ph 338-4200)	Headquarters Pouch Z Juneau, AK 99811 (ph 465-2957)
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.ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 949 Palmer, AK 99645 (ph 745-7200)	1514 So. Cushman, Rm 312 Fairbanks, AK 99701 (ph 452-1570)
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.ALASKA DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS

U.S. Army Engineering District, Alaska
Pouch 898
Anchorage, AK 99506
(ph 552-4739)

.UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Institute of Water Resources University of Alaska Fairbanks, AK 99701 (ph 474-7775)	Arctic Environmental Info & Data Center (AEIDC) 707 A St. Anchorage, AK 99501 (ph 279-4523)
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.U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

701 C St., Rm E556
P.O. Box 19
Anchorage, AK 99513
(ph 271-5083)

.U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Ste 129
Anchorage, AK 99504
(ph 276-4246)

.U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Environmental Health Branch
701 C St.
Pouch 65
Anchorage, AK 99513
(ph 271-4700)

.U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WATER RE-
SOURCES DIVISION (subdistrict offices)

1209 Orca St. 101 12th Ave., Rm 168
Anchorage, AK 99501 Fairbanks, AK 99701
(ph 271-4153) (ph 456-0214)

710 W. 9th, Rm 441
Juneau, AK 99802
(ph 586-7216)

.NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

701 C St.
Anchorage, AK 99501
(ph 271-5136)

WATER-QUALITY INFORMATION

This category pertains primarily to contamination and purity of surface and subsurface waters. Anyone interested in the procedures involved in having a water supply tested for purity should contact the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (above). Other agencies with information on water quality include:

.ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE (p. 3).

.UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA (Institute of Water Resources) (p. 3).

.ALASKA DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION (Public health laboratory).

527 E. 4th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
(ph 274-1602)

.ALASKA DISTRICT CORP. OF ENGINEERS
(p. 3).

.U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BRANCH (p. 4).

.U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WATER RESOURCES DIVISION (p. 4).

SUBSURFACE-WATER INFORMATION

Subsurface or ground water is that which occurs beneath the land surface. Matters concerning ground water would include (as a partial list) water-well logs, ground-water movement, water-table levels, water-well discharges, and public water supplies. Agencies with information on subsurface water include:

.ALASKA DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT (p. 2).

.ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES (p. 3).

.ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.

Pouch O 437 E St., Ste 200
Juneau, AK 99811 Anchorage, AK 99501
(ph 465-2600) (ph 274-2533)

P.O. Box 1601 Drawer 1709
Fairbanks, AK 99707 Valdez, AK 99686
(ph 452-1714) (ph 835-4698)

.ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE (p. 3).

.UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA (Institute of Water Resources) (p. 3).

.U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WATER RESOURCES DIVISION (p. 4).

.ALASKA DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS (p. i).

.U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BRANCH (p. 4).